With regard to the road from Kollad, I am not convinced of the urgency or the need of that work. When I go to Kottayam next, please take me there. You say it involves the acquisition of three furlongs of land. It is all wet land that has to be acquired. To raise it above flood level is a very costly proposition, and I think Government must be convinced that it is a very urgent work before it can be commenced.

With regard to the improvement of the Market and Cutcherry landings, the proposal to acquire a certain width of land on either side of the canal is a good proposition. All that means a lot of money. It involves the putting down at once of a big sum of money and spending it fully. If the Municipal Council will put forward a scheme, if it can find out what extent of land is required, the readiness of the local inhabitants for co-operation and what compensation will have to be paid, and if it can convince the Government of the need for the work, the necessary steps will be taken. Government should have an assurance that, if it spent, say Rs. 50,000 this year, that sum could be realised subsequently. Such a scheme could be given effect to only by co-operation between the Government and the people.

As regards groynes at Thazathangadi I have seen the place and I quite agree with you in thinking that the respective lands may be registered in the names of the people, so that they may use them for landing. I remember to have issued such an order. I shall issue orders again. That is the only way of solving that question.

As regards the location of all civil courts in one building, I have already made suggestions. I said that two sheds would be put up close to the existing building. I have issued instructions in the matter. Reports have been received. What you call a temporary shed also involves expenditure of money.

With regard to the Nagampadam bridge, I must see what it is going to cost. If it is going to be Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000, we shall try to include it in the next year's budget.

90. Needs of the town of Changanachery.

Mr. Thoma Kurian (Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery) prayed that the order sanctioning the transfer of the site of the Changanachery Travellers' Bungalow and the buildings to the local Municipal Council for use as a recreation ground might be carried into effect immediately as the public were put to great inconvenience for want of a recreation ground. He suggested that the camping officers and other travellers could conveniently halt at the local Satrom. If a kitchen for Christians were to be built in the Satrom, it could be used at all times by travellers of all castes. Even if additional buildings were found necessary for the purpose, they could be constructed in the Satrom compound as it was extensive. In any case, the T. B. and its site might be transferred at once to the Municipality for a recreation ground,—a long-felt necessity of the people.

Secondly, he suggested that the Puvakattu *chira* might be improved and made fit for the use of all classes of people for bathing purposes. He added that that was the only convenient tank in the heart of the town for the purpose and that it could be made use of if walls were constructed on all sides with a few bathing ghats here and there. It was now in utter disrepair and weeding was necessary. He added that the improvement of the tank had been recommended by the local Peishkars on different occasions, but nothing had been done as yet. He also referred to the Dewan's reply to the representation made at the Nineteenth Session of the Assembly that an estimate was called for from the Chief Engineer for the work. He prayed that, in view of the necessity for the tank, it might be repaired as suggested by him without further delay.

The Member represented that there were 12 liquor shops in the town of Changanachery, located in close proximity to churches, schools and other public places, especially toddy shop No. 20, Puttottil which was only half a furlong and one-fourth of a furlong distant from the general market and the fish market, respectively. The location of those shops close to public places caused considerable annoyance to the people of the place and rendered it difficult for those who had to pass along the roads of the town to do so without fear of danger. He, therefore, requested that Government might take steps to see that the liquor shops referred to were removed from

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

their present sites and located outside the town limits, at least after the next auction sale for the ensuing biennium was over.

Thirdly, the Member prayed that the Changanachery-Vazhur road might be widened and extended from the landing to meet the M. C. road to a length of 6 furlongs and to a width of 24 ft. and thence extended to the limits of the town to a width of 18 ft. and the entire portion metalled.

He further prayed that the portion of the road as far as it met the Kottayam-Kumili road at the 16th mile might be metalled and kept in good repair.

Lastly, he prayed that a canal from Alleppey to Changanachery might be opened to promote the expansion of commerce between the two places. That was greatly desired by the people of Changanachery and those of Ambalapuzha, two important taluks of the State. He represented that the route now used by the people was a circuitous one and was often subject to dangers during monsoon and flood seasons as it lay along deep water. If the alignment of the canal could be taken through the vast extent of Kandukrishi lands intervening, the work would be easier and less costly than was usually anticipated.

91. Some needs of the town of Changanachery.

Mr. Chacko Mathew (Member, Trading Classes, Changanachery) represented the necessity for the opening of a canal through the Kusakkudi *punja* fields. The opening of such a canal, he urged, would enable the boats loaded with goods to approach the market nearer and to carry on trade. At present, they stood at a considerable distance from the market and caused serious hardship to merchants and other traders who came to the market with goods. He added that, as the place was already inspected by the Dewan in company with the Chief Engineer and the local Municipal President, there was no difficulty on his part to bring home to Government the intensity of the feelings of the trading public in this matter.

The Member next prayed for the local Travellers' Bungalow and its site being handed over to the Municipality for use as a recreation ground. He said that it was not his intention to labour the point, since the previous speaker, Mr. Thoma Kurien, had dwelt at length on the same question.

Thirdly, the Member referred to the necessity for a godown at the market landing and said that in the absence of such a shed travellers in general and merchants in particular were undergoing great hardship. With reference to the Dewan's reply to the representation on the subject at the Eighteenth Session of the Assembly, to the effect that the work could not be undertaken by the Government on account of the heavy cost involved, the Member pointed out that the expenditure on such a highly necessary work should not be grudged in view of the large income derived from the taluk in the shape of Income-tax, etc.

The Member next prayed that the narrow portion of land to the east of the Changanachery market might be widened on account of the difficulties experienced by the public during market days. He pointed out that that was a fact known to the Dewan and also to the present Chief Engineer while he was Division Officer, Kottayam, and that the latter had recommended the work. The Member concluded by observing that the policy of the Government in laying down that local needs should be attended to by Municipalities was not a sound one.

Lastly, the Member prayed that, when the Travancore State-aided bank became a *fait accompli*, steps might be taken for opening a branch of it at Changanachery.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the handing over of the site of the Travellers' Bungalow to the Municipal Council to be used as a recreation ground, you say that the orders of the Government have been held in abeyance. We had to keep the order in abeyance because there was an idea of handing over the camp shed and premises for the local Nair Service Society's High School. Until we arranged for another camp shed, we considered that this matter should be kept in abeyance. But, on further consideration, it seems to me that this order need not be kept in abeyance, since the handing over of the camp shed to the Nair Service Society now depends upon the construction

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly